

REMARKS:Status

Claims 31 to 50 and 53 to 58 are pending. Claims 35, 38, and 57 have been amended herein. Claims 31, 40, 43 and 54 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 35, 38, and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, for alleged indefiniteness. Applicants have amended the claims to address the issues raised in the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Section 102 Rejection

All pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,665 (Teper). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejections of the claims are discussed below, grouped by the independent claims.

Claims 31 to 39 and 57: Claim 31 is reproduced below.

31. A method of operating a file server, said method including steps of:

identifying a file on said file server with a first security style selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server; and

enforcing said first security style for all accesses to said file including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles.

Teper is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 31. In particular, Teper does not appear to mention a file server with a plurality of operating systems implemented thereon. Instead, Teper discloses a preferred embodiment that uses a Microsoft Windows NT based server application. See Teper, col. 14, lines 13 to 15, and col. 16, lines 57 to 58.

Teper does mention that "access rights components 54B could be modified to convert MSN [the Microsoft Network] tokens to the security formats used by other platforms" and lists UNIX as an example of such as a platform. See Teper, col. 14, lines 13 to 19. However, no mention whatsoever is made of implementing both operating systems, namely Windows NT and UNIX, on the same server.

Applicants submit that without teaching a plurality of operating systems implemented on a server, Teper cannot teach "a plurality of security styles corresponding to" such "a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server."

In this regard, col. 18, lines 1 to 15, of Teper was cited as teaching this feature. The paragraph located at this position of Teper is reproduced below:

With reference to blocks 108 and 110, if the Brokering Agent determines that the response message was properly generated, and is thus (presumably) authentic, the Brokering Agent 62 accesses the accounts database 64B to obtain the user-specific customization information (e.g., display preferences, connection speed, geographic region, etc.), if any, to be provided to the WWW site 50 with the subsequent verification message. In addition, the Brokering Agent 62 queries the MSN security system (as indicated by arrow "F" in FIG. 4) for the user's access rights

with respect to the WWW site 50. This effectively involves a two-step process: First, the user's token list is obtained from the security database. This token list may include tokens (and corresponding access right data) which correspond to other service areas, such as internal MSN service areas and/or service areas of other SP sites 50. Second, the token list is filtered by retaining only those tokens to which the particular Service Provider making the authentication request has sysop privileges. The result is a filtered token list which specifies the user's access rights only with respect to the particular WWW server 50.

Applicants note that this text does not even mention an operating system, let alone a plurality of operating systems implemented on a server and a plurality of security styles corresponding to those operating systems. Rather, the text mentions "MSN," the Microsoft Network, which is not an operating system. Thus, Applicants submit this text cannot teach the feature for which it is cited, namely "identifying a file on said file server with a first security style selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server."

Applicants further submit that without teaching "a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server," Teper cannot teach "enforcing said first security style for all accesses to said file including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles."

In this regard, col. 14, lines 10 to 20, was cited for teaching enforcement "including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles." Text from this portion of Teper is reproduced below:

The access rights components 54B also include a set of APIs for accessing and updating the table 56, including APIs that can be used by the Service Providers to manipulate table entries.

Although the preferred implementation depicted by FIG. 4 assumes that the server application 52 is a Microsoft Windows NT based application, the access rights components 54B can be adapted to convert MSN tokens to the security formats used by other platforms. For example, the access rights components 54B could be modified to convert MSN tokens to a security format recognized by UNIX.

Applicants do not understand this text to discuss enforcing a first security style for all access to a file including access in another security style. Rather, this text appears to discuss that MSN tokens can be converted to security formats used by other platforms. Applicants do not see any discussion that this conversion is done so that a first security style can be enforced for access to a file in a second security style, but rather understand this text to teach how MSN tokens can be used with different security styles.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 102 rejection of claim 31 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Claims 40 to 42: Claim 40 is reproduced below:

40. A method of operating a file server, said method including steps of

identifying a file on said file server with a first security style selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server;

enforcing said first security style for all accesses to said file server including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles; and

identifying said file with a second security style selected from among the plurality of security styles in response to a file server request.

Teper is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 40. In particular, Teper does not appear to mention a file server with a plurality of operating systems

implemented thereon. Applicants submit that without teaching a plurality of operating systems implemented on a server, Teper cannot teach “a plurality of security styles corresponding to” such “a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server.” Applicants further submit that without teaching “a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server,” Teper cannot teach either “enforcing said first security style for all accesses to said file including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles” or “identifying said file with a second security style selected from among the plurality of security styles in response to a file server request.”

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 102 rejection of claim 40 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Claims 43 to 50 and 58: Claim 43 is reproduced below.

43. A file server including:

    a set of files available on said file server, each said file having an associated security style selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server;

    wherein said file server enforces said associated security style for all accesses to said file including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles.

Teper is not seen to disclose or to suggest a plurality of operating systems implemented on the file server and therefore is not seen to teach a plurality of security styles corresponding to such a plurality of operating systems. Applicants submit that without teaching “a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on

“said file server,” Teper cannot teach “each said file having an associated security style selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server” or “said file server [enforcing] said associated security style for all accesses to said file including accesses in another one of said plurality of security styles.”

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 102 rejection of claim 43 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Claims 54 to 56: Claim 54 is reproduced below.

54. In a file server having a plurality of files and a security style associated with each file, said security style being selected from among a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server, a data structure associating a security subset of said plurality of security styles with a subtree of said files available on said file server.

Teper is not seen to disclose or to suggest a plurality of operating systems implemented on the file server and therefore is not seen to teach a plurality of security styles corresponding to such a plurality of operating systems. Applicants submit that without teaching “a plurality of security styles corresponding to a plurality of operating systems implemented on said file server,” Teper cannot teach “a data structure associating a security subset of said plurality of security styles with a subtree of said files available on said file server.”

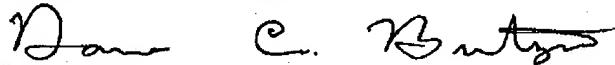
For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 102 rejection of claim 54 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Closing

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 486-3585. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dane C. Butzer  
Reg. No. 43,521

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Swernofsky Law Group PC  
P.O. Box 390013  
Mountain View, CA 94039-0013  
(650) 947-0700